

In connection with adding new societies to our list, it has also been the organizer's aim to stimulate the local societies to greater activities, to increase their membership, to awaken a deeper interest in world-wide missions, and to show that the most effectual mission work for us to do at present is to help in educating missionaries and ministers, in other words to support the Bible department of Ashland College.

During the year the National S. S. C. E., has not only been paying ten dollars to each of the other two funds, general missions, and superannuated ministers, but a good part of the money sent for the Washington City church building, was raised thru the efforts of the Sisters' Society. May not this be one of the reasons why the Theological fund did not meet the expectation of the trustees of Ashland College. It may also be because some of the societies have taken one of the hundred dollar endowments pledges, in support of the College as a whole instead of only the Theological department. The furnishing of rooms in the Boarding Hall has been another new work taken up by different societies. Thus our efforts in the past year have been much divided, but it is our aim this year to concentrate our energies to meet fewer demands, and in this way to do more towards the education of our ministers and missionaries.

What are the aims and plans of the S. S. C. E., for the present year? One of our officers has strongly urged that we try to reach the 600th five-dollar pledge for the Theological fund. This should be done mainly thru correspondence, as there is no special need for an organizer to be in the field except in Maryland and Virginia. These congregations I hope to visit during vacation next summer.

The direct financial result of the organizer's work of the summer is reported in exact figures, with the minutes of the meeting by the secretary.

Lastly it is the hope of the S. S. C. E., that the pastors will take more of a real interest in the Sister's Society of their churches. Since the pastor is the shepherd, he should be in touch with all the departments of church work, therefore he must understand and be in full sympathy with the work of the S. S. C. E.

VIANNA DETWILER.

Our Young People

DEAD TO SIN, ALIVE TO CHRIST

Eph. 2:1-10; Rom. 6:8-11

Topic for April 7.

This topic may prove to be somewhat difficult. Nevertheless it contains a very important lesson for us. We should therefore, study it most carefully so as to obtain the lesson contained in it.

If we follow the argument of St. Paul in these two passages we will find that he represents Christ as occupying a complete and final relation to the believer. "We are complete in Him." We can never go beyond Him. He became man, suffered and died that He might redeem men. He rose again and yet

liveth that He might bring us into spiritual fellowship and conquest. We are familiar with the fact of Christ's death and what we have obtained thru it, but very few somehow appreciate the power of the resurrected Christ in our present lives. St. Paul says that the death of Christ was representative. In His death we died just as in Adam we sinned. But our death with Him meant life. For if we died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him. His whole work of suffering and death and resurrection was that we might have life. (John 10:10) He died for us that He might dwell in us. "Even so reckon ye also yourselves to be dead unto sin, but alive unto God in Christ Jesus." By faith we become identified with Jesus Christ, and as a result of this identification we live.

The Christian's life is, then, a *resurrected life*. We are now dead to the old carnal, selfish life. We are done with it. We are now out of correspondence with it. We have been freed from its tyranny and slavery. In Christ Jesus we have now a new life with new and loftier aims, aspirations and ideals. We now have new and exalted conceptions of the purpose, worth and dignity of human life. We no longer live the self-centered life. Our life is now Christ-centered. The old has been put away. It was buried in the baptismal plunge. We came out from the water in the newness of life. "Old things are passed away, all things are become new."

Formerly we were dead. The scriptures everywhere speak of the sinner as dead. "Dead in trespasses and sin." "She that sinneth is dead while she liveth." Death here can mean only the lack of correspondence. We say that the man born blind is dead so far as the world of color and beauty is concerned. That the man born deaf would be dead so far as the world of sound is concerned. So the one that lives in sin is dead, that is, is out of correspondence with God. This was the state of the whole world when Jesus came to it. Hence He says "I am come that ye might have life and that more abundantly." "We are now alive unto God thru Jesus Christ." Christ not sin nor self, nor the world, is now the environment in which we live. All growth depends much upon environment. The Christian life, which is always spoken of as a growth, is no exception. Our growth depends upon our abiding with Him. The Christian can not grow apart from Christ and Christian influences and associations. We must pray, meditate upon the word of God, hear the preached word and associate with believers if we would care to grow. Here is the lesson of the evening. Do not fail to make much of it. We as Christians are to be dead unto sin. We are not to go back to it. Our life must be surrendered to the standard of Jesus Christ and His resurrection life. We must seek God's will and glory, instead of our own. We must put away more and more, our ambitions and pride and selfishness. We must give our lives with all that we are and have wholly to Him, ever to do what He thru His Word and Spirit commands.

SCRIPTURE LIGHT

I. Spiritual Death What it is.

- 1 Alienation from God, Eph. 4:18.
- 2 Carnal mindedness Rom. 8:6.
- 3 Walking in trespasses and sin, Eph. 2:1; Col. 2:13.
- 4 Spiritual ignorance, Matt. 4:16, Eph. 4:18.
- 5 Unbelief, John 3:36; I John 5:12.
- 6 Living in pleasure, I Tim. 5:6.
- 7 Hypocrisy, Rev. 3:1, 2.
- 8 A consequence of the fall, Rom. 5:15.
- 9 State of all by nature, Rom. 6:13; 8:6.

II. Spiritual Life.

- 1 God the author of, Col. 2:13.
- 2 Christ the author of, John 5:21, 25.
- 3 The Holy Spirit the author of, Ezek. 37:14 with Rom. 8:9, 13.
- 4 The word of God the instrument of, Isa. 55:3; I Peter 4:6.
- 5 Is a life hidden with Christ, Col. 3:3.
- 6 Is spiritual mindedness, Rom. 8:6.

III. How Maintained.

- 1 By Christ, John 6:57; I Cor. 10:3, 4.
- 2 By faith, Gal. 2:20.
- 3 By the word, Dent. 8:3 with Matt. 4:4.
- 4 By prayer, Ps. 69:32.

IV. A Growth.

- 1 Its birth, John 3:3, 8.
- 2 Its infancy, I Cor. 3:1, 2; I John 2:12.
- 3 Its youth, I John 2:13, 14.
- 4 Its maturity, Eph. 4:13.

V. How Evidenced.

- 1 Love of the brethren, I John 3:14.
- 2 By Services, Rom. 12:1; I Cor. 14:15.

VI. The Deliverance from natural death is only thru Jesus Christ, John 5:24, 25; Eph. 2:5; I John 5:12.

VII. The Deliverance called a Resurrection, Rom. 6:13.

VIII. The Spiritual Life is Described.

- 1 A life unto God, Rom. 6:11; Gal. 2:19.
- 2 Newness of life, Rom. 6:4.
- 3 Living in the spirit, Gal. 5:25.

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION.

- 1 What is the meaning of the term death as used in the scriptures?
- 2 Can we escape from spiritual death other than thru Jesus Christ?
- 3 What light does this topic throw upon baptism? See Rom. 8 ch.
- 4 What assurance does this topic give us to enter upon the Christian life?
- 5 Can we be partially dead to sin and wholly alive unto Christ?
- 6 What do you mean by being dead to self and alive to Christ?
- 7 Will our Christian life be satisfactory and successful unless we are wholly dead to self?

WM D FURRY.

Christian Life

O God, Forgive

MRS FINDLEY BRADEN

The little sins that somehow, now seem great,
The certain fault I have, yet wholly hate,
The yielding to temptations that await,
My constant strays from paths right, and straight,
O God, forgive!

The hasty words I did not try to check,
That in their train oft bring ruin, wreck,
The pages of my life with stain and speck,
The months and years so full of flaw, and fleck,
O God, forgive!

The deeds that ever loom up dark as night,
And cloud my sky, e'en when the sun is bright,
That are abomination in Thy sight,
And on my coming days have placed a blight,
O God, forgive!

The foolish murmurings, day after day,
Although Thy goodness ever paves my way,
The light and trifling things I often say,
The many things I cannot even pray,
O God, forgive!

—Presbyterian.

The Blessedness of ministering

J. M. Buckley.

Service is a badge of Christian discipleship, and only those who wear that badge can come into a full appreciation of the richness and completeness of the compensations that accrue to those who deny themselves, take up their cross, and follow the divine Lord. In many ways the work of ministering was dignified and magnified by Jesus.